Eclipse Education

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Link: https://github.com/PhilN199/EclipseProject

URL: ec2-3-81-36-232.compute-1.amazonaws.com

Final Report

The information we were trying to solve had to do with providing a simpler format for displaying eclipse information. While NASA has a website dedicated to eclipses, we found that it lacked some of the simplicity when it comes to displaying information. Overall, we tried to provide a system that would allow the user to browse a catalog of eclipses with ease.

Some of the solution we had for this problem was acquiring a dataset and adjusting it to our needs. We opted for a search bar in the catalog section, which if the date were typed, would start to filter out dates based on what was written. With the information then displayed, it was important the emphasize on what we wanted the user to get from the displayed information. Thing such as latitude and longitude were being displayed to further allow to user to manually look up where exactly some of the eclipses would occur.

As to why we did what we did for our design we designed that since the project was only for the class and that we were working separately for each part of the website. We decided to inline most of our work to one page. We know that in the long run this would not be beneficial, but for the short time constraint we did what's most efficient to get the site to work coherently. When it came to information being displayed from the database, we chose data that we felt was relevant to our goals. While there were a variety of things to consider when it came to display our database, we had to solely focus on information for the eclipse.

However, with all projects, there are also challenges that we faced. We would have wanted to change the location of the countdown. While it did have its own page, we felt that it would have been a better fit as something smaller located on the home screen. We would have also wanted to integrate a map that allowed for better coverage when it came to eclipses that were at peak over the ocean. As it stands, when giving a high latitude or longitude, the maps shoot straight to the body of water not giving a precise location.

Ultimately, we felt that we solved our information problem with our system design. When compared to the NASA website for eclipses, it was night and day when it came to displaying the information. This in large part had to do with only keeping relevant information for the average person. We did not want to overload the user with information. Being able to navigate the web pages without being confused was our goal and we felt that we have achieved that.

In the future we hope to improve upon what we had already built. This involves the layout of the homepage and how the map is displayed and better organization of our code structure. While only factoring in solar eclipses at this stage, we hope to apply data about lunar eclipses as well. While we did only show the peak of the eclipse, we did feel that what we really wanted was the path of the eclipse, which is something we want to consider in the future.